

# WEBINAR

# WEDNESDAYS



**Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

## JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

Presented by:

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AOC Juvenile Justice Services Division, Automation Unit

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Distributed by:

ARIZONA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

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ELIZABETH BURTON ORTIZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project

APAAC WEDNESDAY WEBINAR  
AUGUST 18, 2021

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## Learning Objectives

- ▶ Gain understanding about:
  - ▶ Arizona's Juvenile Justice System Improvement Project (JJSIP)
    - ▶ The AZYAS Risk Assessment
    - ▶ The Recommendation Matrix
    - ▶ Correctional Program Checklist
  - ▶ Short-term Standard Probation and Risk Based Supervision
  - ▶ AOC contracted services targeting criminogenic and/or mental health needs

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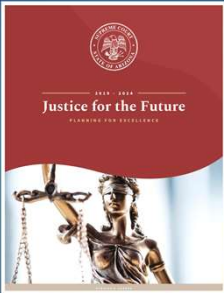
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Justice for the Future  
PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE

Goal 2: "Protecting Children, Families, and Communities"

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## Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity within Juvenile Justice



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## Juvenile Justice Collaborative Partners



- Judges
- Attorneys
- Youth
- Family
- Community-Based Organizations/Stakeholders
- Behavioral Health
- Education
- Child Welfare
- Law Enforcement

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## National Partners



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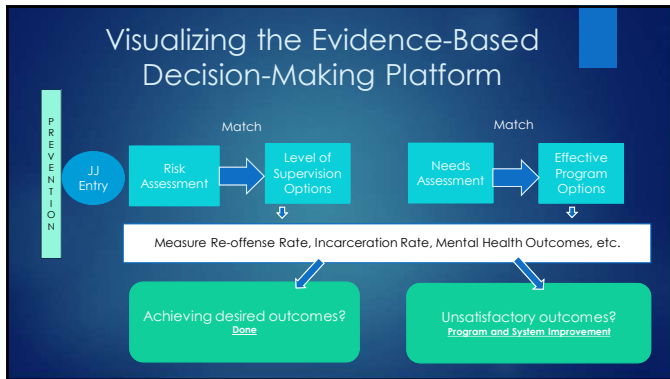
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### Risk, Need and Responsivity

In recent years, juvenile justice professionals have recognized the research that shows that we are **more likely to achieve positive youth outcomes and reduce recidivism** if decisions regarding services and placement for court-involved youth are based on a risk, need, and responsivity framework.

Source: Dowden, C., & Andrews, D. A. (2000). Effective correctional treatment and reoffending: A meta-analysis.

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### Risk, Need, and Responsivity

<b>Risk Principle</b>	• Supervision and services should be focused on youth most likely to reoffend
<b>Need Principle</b>	• Services should address the youth's criminogenic needs or dynamic risk factors—that is, those factors associated with delinquency (e.g., negative peer associations, anti-social attitudes, substance abuse, poor academic performance, family problems)
<b>Responsivity Principle</b>	• Services should help youth overcome barriers to learning, improving behavior, and responding to treatment (e.g., mental health, motivation, cognitive functioning)

Source: Dowden, C., & Andrews, D. A. (2000). Effective correctional treatment and reoffending: A meta-analysis.

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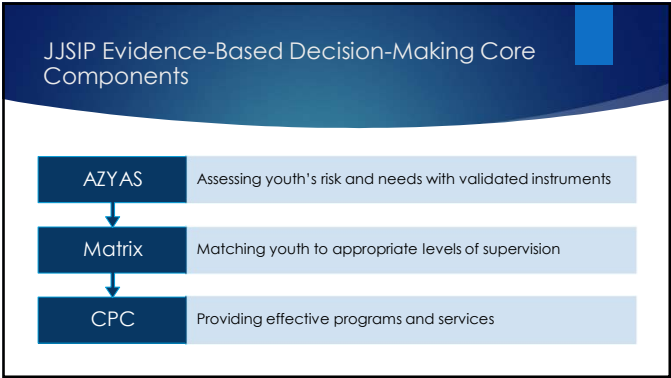
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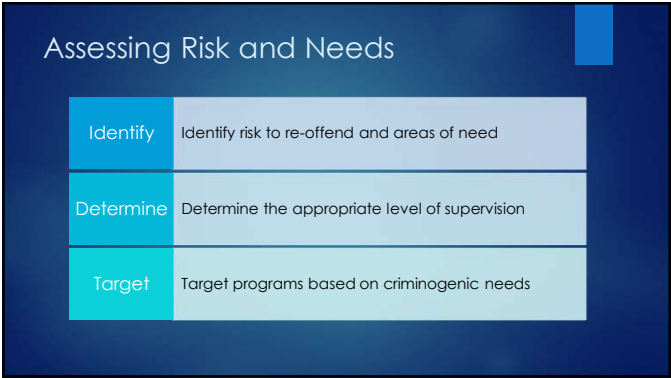
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**AZYAS -**  
**Arizona Youth Assessment System**

- ✓ Arizona's standardized Risk Assessment since 2012
- 📊 A research-based, validated tool
- 🔍 Identifies levels of risk to recidivate and criminogenic needs
- 🌐 AZYAS Disposition Instrument re-validated in 2019 using AZ data
- 📋 AZYAS Disposition Instrument integral in the Recommendation Matrix

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**Treatment Priorities**

Juvenile Justice History	Family and Living Arrangements	Peers and Social Support	Education and Employment
Pro-Social Skill Set	Substance Abuse, Personality, and Mental Health	Values, Beliefs and Attitudes	

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**JPO Recommendation Process**

- Referral
- Adjudication
- Assessing Risk and Needs (AZYAS)
- Application of the Matrix
- Disposition

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## AZYAS Benefits

- ▶ Assesses overall risk level to recidivate
- ▶ Assesses risk domains
- ▶ Connects risk assessment with disposition
- ▶ Connects risk assessment with service interventions
- ▶ Re-assessment provides snapshot of change overtime



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## RECOMMENDATION MATRIX

A Dispositional Recommendation Tool for Juvenile Probation Officers

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021  
ACJA 6-301.01

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### Recommendation Matrix

-  AZ data used to develop the Recommendation Matrix
-  Based on AZYAS risk level and seriousness of offense
-  Diversion is at the discretion of the County Attorney per A.R.S. 8-321(C) and not part of the Matrix
-  Matrix does not limit attorney recommendations or judicial decisions

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### Recommendation Matrix

-  Consistent statewide approach that aligns with evidence-based decision-making
-  Used only when there is time between adjudication and disposition to complete the AZYAS Disposition instrument
-  Arizona Code of Judicial Administration (ACJA) § 6-301.01 & 6-302.01
-  Year long implementation period, data will be gathered to analyze how the matrix is used and its impact on recidivism

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### Important Decisions Need Time

- ▶ Doctors need time to make important medical decisions
- ▶ Attorneys need time to develop their prosecution and defense
- ▶ Probation officers need time to use evidence-based tools to assess a juvenile's risk level, identify unique attributes of a juvenile and make data-driven recommendations that match the juvenile with the right level of supervision, with the right interventions at the right time
- ▶ Judges need time to consider all information presented to make decisions based on the whole child and what is best for the child



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Recommendation Matrix			
Most Serious Adjudicated Offense	Low Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)	Moderate Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)	High Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)
Misdemeanor	Court Consequence; Short-term Standard Probation*	Court Consequence; Short-term Standard Probation*; Standard Probation*	Court Consequence; Short-term Standard Probation*; Standard Probation*
Felony Against Property & Non-Person	Court Consequence; Short-term Standard Probation*; Standard Probation*	Court Consequence; Short-term Standard Probation*; Standard Probation*	Standard Probation*; JIPS
Felony Against Person	Short-term Standard Probation*; Standard Probation*; JIPS	Standard Probation*; JIPS	Standard Probation*; JIPS; ADJC
Serious/Violent Felony Pursuant to A.R.S. 13-704(F)(1)(2)	Standard Probation*; JIPS	Standard Probation*; JIPS; ADJC	Standard Probation*; JIPS; ADJC

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Optimal Recommendation

- Least restrictive option in cell not previously attempted with juvenile
- Data has shown that prescribing the least restrictive level of supervision provides the best outcome for reduced recidivism
- First recommendation considered by the probation officer
- The most frequent recommendation made

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Above and Below Guidelines

**"Matrix Above Guidelines"**  
means the disposition recommendation that is more restrictive than the Matrix would suggest. Research indicates this may result in higher recidivism.

**"Matrix Below Guidelines"**  
means the disposition is less restrictive than the Matrix would suggest. Research indicates this may result in higher recidivism.

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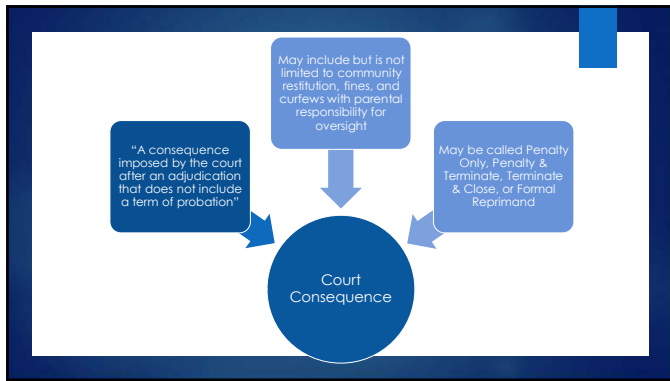
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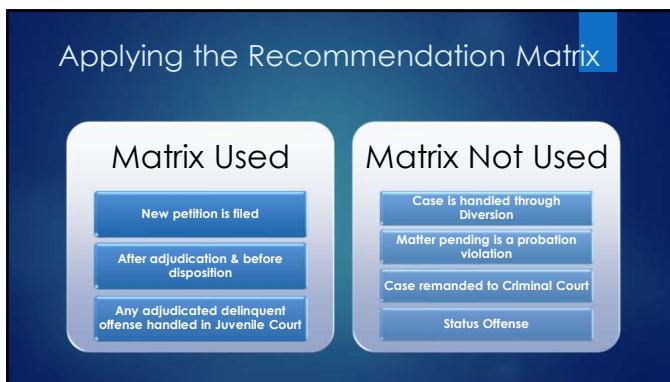
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### Matrix Tool Benefits

- ▶ Evidence-based tool that results in consistent statewide disposition recommendations
- ▶ Optimal recommendation identifies level of supervision that research shows reduces recidivism
- ▶ Allows JPO to use their judgment and experience in the disposition recommendation
- ▶ Does not restrict the court's disposition orders

An illustration of a small person in a suit holding a very large, yellow, 3D box. The word "BENEFITS" is written in large, bold, black letters on the front of the box.

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*The Right Child, the Right Service, the  
Right Reason, at the Right Time*



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## Senate Bill 1166

- A.R.S. §8-341(D): If a juvenile is fourteen years of age or older and is adjudicated as a repeat felony juvenile offender, **UNLESS THE COURT DETERMINES BASED ON THE SEVERITY OF THE OFFENSE AND A RISK ASSESSMENT THAT JUVENILE INTENSIVE PROBATION SERVICES ARE NOT REQUIRED**, the juvenile court shall place the juvenile on juvenile intensive probation, which may include **home arrest and electronic monitoring**, **may place the juvenile on juvenile intensive probation, which may include incarceration for a period of time** in a juvenile detention center, or may commit the juvenile to the department of juvenile corrections pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1, subdivision (e) of this section for a significant period of time.

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## Short-term Standard Probation

ACJA 6-301.01  
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021

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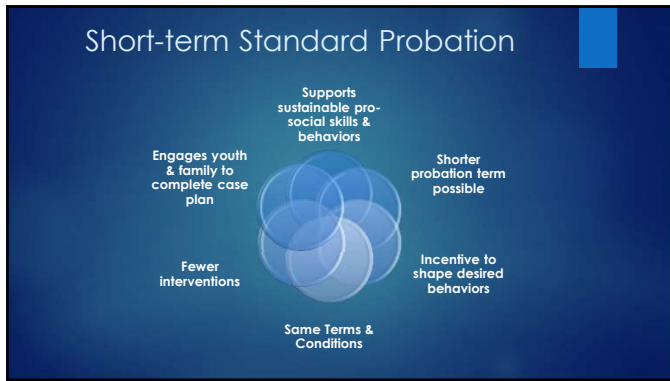
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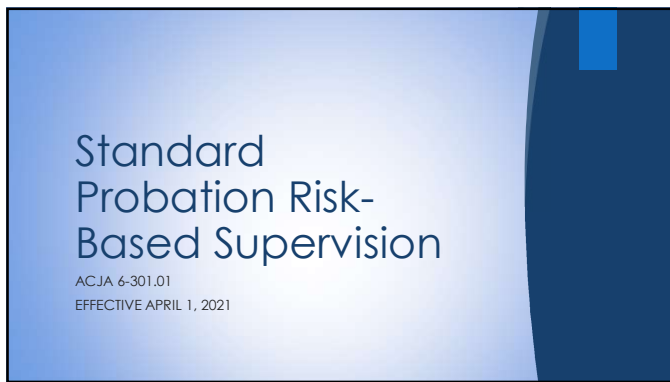
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### Risk-based Supervision Contact Standards

Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One monthly visual contact with the juvenile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two monthly visual contacts with the juvenile</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three monthly visual contacts with the juvenile</li> </ul>

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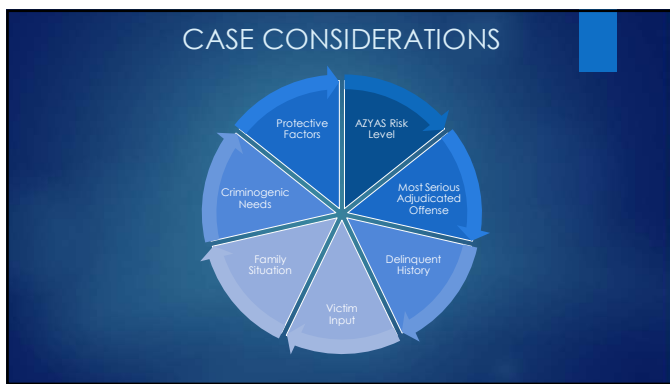
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### Sedona

Sedona is a 15-year-old female with three referrals in her juvenile justice history. At age 12, Sedona had her 1<sup>st</sup> referral for Shoplifting, a Class 1 Misdemeanor and completed Diversion. At age 13, she was adjudicated on her 2<sup>nd</sup> referral for Criminal Trespass, a Class 1 Misdemeanor. Her AZYAS Risk Level was assessed to be low at the time of the Criminal Trespass adjudication and she received a disposition of Court Consequence.

In this 3<sup>rd</sup> referral, Sedona has been adjudicated and is pending disposition for Unlawful Use of a Means of Transportation, a Class 6 Felony. Her current AZYAS Risk Level is Moderate.

Sedona is in DCS custody and lives with her grandmother and siblings in a kinship placement due to parental neglect. She is enrolled in school and is a member of her school marching band. Her Social Studies teacher and the Band Director are positive adults in her life.

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Most Serious Adjudicated Offense	Low Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)	Moderate Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)	High Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)
Misdemeanor	Court Consequence; Short-term Standard Probation*	Court Consequence; Short-term Standard Probation*; Standard Probation*	Court Consequence; Short-term Standard Probation*; Standard Probation*
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Felony Against Person	Short-term Standard Probation*; Standard Probation*; JIPS	Standard Probation*; JIPS	Standard Probation*; JIPS; ADJC
Serious/Violent Felony Pursuant to A.R.S. 13-706(F)(1)(2)	Standard Probation*; JIPS	Standard Probation*; JIPS; ADJC	Standard Probation*; JIPS; ADJC

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### Duncan

Duncan is a 13-year-old male with seven referrals, all related to the same event. Six of the referrals are for Criminal Damage and combined have approximately 60 victims whose properties were spray painted. He has one referral for Contempt of Court after he cut off his GPS monitoring device and absconded pending Adjudication Hearing. Duncan has no other juvenile justice involvement.

Duncan lives with his father, and they have a dysfunctional, volatile relationship. They have been uncooperative with the probation department during the disposition process. Mother lives out of state. There is no reported mental health diagnosis but Duncan reports marijuana and alcohol use. He makes statements desiring to continue delinquent behavior and idolizing high-profile criminals.

The victims are vocal and concerned for their safety, especially those living close to Duncan. Law enforcement is active in their efforts to see Duncan placed, at minimum, on JIPS.

Duncan was assessed using the AZYAS Disposition Instrument and is considered high risk to reoffend. His seven referrals were combined into one disposition, and he was adjudicated for one count of Criminal Damage, a Class 4 Felony.

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## Duncan

Referral Offenses	Delinquent History	Social Background	Most Severe Adjudicated Offense Category	Risk Level Details	Optimal Disposition Recommendation
6 referrals for Criminal Damage 1 referral for Contempt of Court 69 victims Spray painting residences, city property and vehicles	None	13 years of age Lives with father Has stable and dysfunctional relationship with mother in another state Verbalizes desire to commit future delinquent offenses Admits several killers and high-profile criminals	Felony Against Property & Non-Person	AZYAS Score in High-Risk Level	Standard Probation

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Most Serious Adjudicated Offense	Low Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)	Moderate Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)	High Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)
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## Wendon

In his 3<sup>rd</sup> referral, Wendon, age 17, has been adjudicated for Aggravated Assault, a Class 3 Felony and is pending disposition. His AZYAS Risk Level is high. In this instance, Wendon entered the residence of his mother's boyfriend, confronting the man and engaging him in a physical altercation resulting in hospitalization with serious injuries.

Wendon is currently enrolled in school but behind on school credits and is classified as a freshman; he works under an IEP for reading disabilities. He has self-reported ongoing use of alcohol.

Wendon's juvenile justice history includes a referral at age 12 for underage drinking and curfew violation for which he received and completed Diversion.

At age 14, Wendon received his 2<sup>nd</sup> referral and was placed on Standard Probation for Assault, a Class 1 Misdemeanor. While on probation for Assault, Wendon participated in a mental health treatment program that included family counseling, to address his sense of abandonment by his father who left the family when Wendon was 4 years old. Wendon responded well to the structure of probation and completed a twelve-month probation term without violation.

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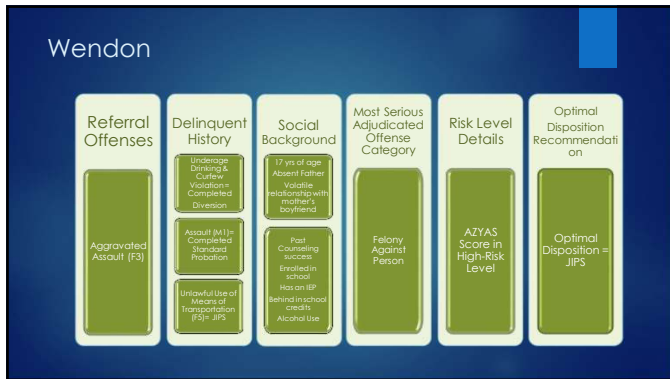
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Most Serious Adjudicated Offense	Low Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)	Moderate Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)	High Risk to Reoffend (AZYAS)
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Serious/Violent Felony Pursuant to A.R.S. 13-706(F)(1)(2)	Standard Probation*; JIPS	Standard Probation*; JIPS; ADJC	Standard Probation*; JIPS; ADJC

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# Addressing Criminogenic and Mental Health Needs

A CONTINUUM OF CONTRACTED SERVICES

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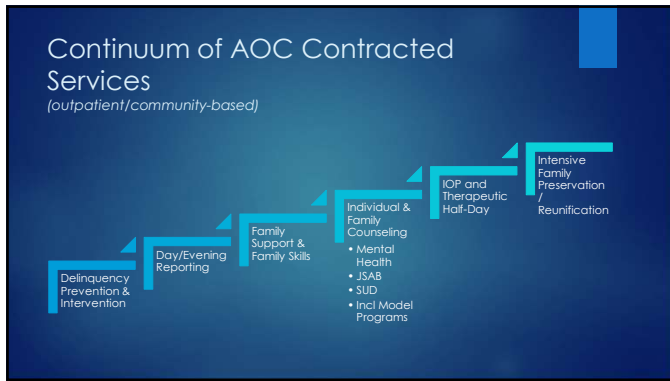
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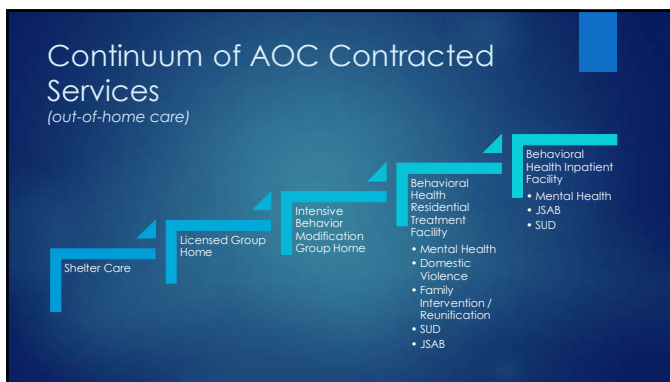
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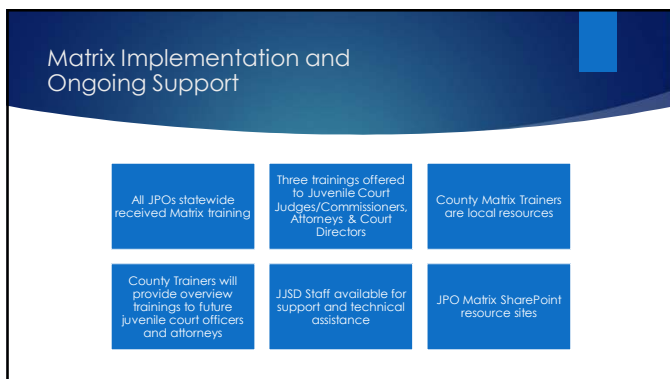
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Thank You

**JJSD Matrix Team**

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**Joe Kelroy**, JJSD Director

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**Holly Reynolds**, Recommendation  
Matrix Initiative Coordinator

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**Chris Varner**, Operations Manager

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**Fran DeWalt**, Program  
Specialist: AZYAS/Matrix Training

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**Amy Stuart**, Research and Automation  
Manager

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